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STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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INDIANA ANNOUNCES OPERATION HOOSIER RELIEF

State Personnel to Deploy to Mississippi

Indianapolis – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) announced today Operation Hoosier Relief, an effort to aid Mississippi in recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. The assembled team of state personnel and resources will deploy to Mississippi at noon this Saturday from Stout Field.

Governor Mitch Daniels extended an offer of recovery assistance to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour earlier this week. After approval of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact request from Governor Barbour, a team of Indiana state agencies led by IDHS determined the Indiana resources available to meet the needs established by Mississippi.

"City, county or state lines cannot serve as a barrier during times of crisis," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "The pictures of devastation we have viewed from the Gulf Coast more than justify why we in Indiana must step up to help our fellow Americans."

Operation Hoosier Relief team members will initially travel to DeSoto County, Mississippi before entering the disaster area. After entering the area, they will establish "Camp Indiana" and begin operations as directed by Mississippi's Emergency Operations Center.

The State of Indiana plans to initially send 184 individuals from six state agencies, making Operation Hoosier Relief the largest deployment ever by the State of Indiana. After arriving, team members will further assess if there are additional resources Indiana may provide.

"IDHS and all the state agencies involved in Operation Hoosier Relief recognize the daunting tasks facing the states affected by Hurricane Katrina and want to offer our support," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "A destructive event like a hurricane requires teamwork to effectively respond and recover. Through Operation Hoosier Relief, we are bringing together our team to aid another state in need."

Editor's Note:

Attached is a list of state agencies and personnel identified as part of Operation Hoosier Relief.

Media Contact:

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State of Indiana
Mission Hoosier Support
Personnel

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Operations Chief
Information Technology
Administration Logistics
Ham Radio Operators

Indiana National Guard

Indiana State Police

Water Rescue

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Water Rescue

Indiana Family & Social Services Administration

Mental Health

Indiana State Department of Health

Registered Nurses